AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12 and replace with the following paragraph:

[0018] FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the NIC 102 in more detail. As shown, the NIC 102 receives TCP/IP packets from the network 110. Although not shown, the NIC 102 also forwards TCP/IP packets to the network 110. The NIC includes a hashing logic 114 for performing hashing functions and a cache line determinator 116 for computing starting cache line locations in the host memory using the hash value as will be described in more detail below. The NIC 102 also includes a NIC resident hash table pages table 142 (also referred herein as a hash tables pages table and hash table pages table) and a NIC resident TCB context table pages table 144 (also referred herein as a TCB context table pages table). The hash table pages table 142 and the TCB context table pages table 144 contain the physical page addresses of the host TCP hash table and host TCB context table, respectively. The tables 142, 144 may be pre-loaded into the NIC 102 by the host system upon system initialization.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23 and replace with the following paragraph:

[0019] The host and NIC TCP data structures are illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4, respectively. As shown in FIG. 3, the host resident TCP data structures include a host hash node table 120 (also referred herein as a host hash node table) and a host TCP-controlled block (TCB)

context table 130 (also referred herein as a host TCP context table). The host hash node table 120 is a data structure that contains multiple host TCP hash node entries 122.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11 and replace with the following paragraph:

[0021] The host hash node table 120 contains a set number (N) of TCP hash node entries 122 and a set number of contiguous cache lines. Each host TCP hash node entry 122 is a data structure containing one or more TCP context references 124, 126, i.e., TCP context identifier information values. Each TCP context reference 124, 126 includes source and destination IP addresses as well as the source and destination TCP ports. In the example shown in FIG. 3, each host TCP hash node entry 122 may contain up to X number of entries. Each host TCP hash node entry 122 can be one or more consecutive cache lines in size with each cache line containing multiple TCP context references 124, 126.